

## To the Abolitionists of Massachusetts.

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**FR**RIENDS: A painful necessity compels a continued appeal to your generosity and your justice.

It will be remembered that at the Annual Meeting of the Abolition Society in 1843, the Treasurer's Report showed a balance against the Society of nine thousand dollars.

To provide for pressing exigencies and to sustain the credit of the Society, twenty individuals were chosen and requested to lend their notes for \$450 each for one year, with the pledge that they should be redeemed, by the resources and contributions of the Society.

Those resources and contributions have failed to be what it was confidently expected they would be. The Committee who gave their notes are now called to pay them. They are mostly poor men, whose support comes from their daily toil, and some of them would be compelled to sacrifice their whole means, even their children's bread, if the pledged faith of the Society should not be redeemed.

Those of the Committee who were able to do so, have paid their notes and voluntarily given the amount to the Society; others have given them in part, and some donations for the purpose have been made, by which the debt is now reduced to about five thousand dollars.]

It should be remembered that the present committee who have assumed the burthen of this debt were not instrumental in creating it. Only one or two of the original committee remain. Some of them having been unfortunate in business and others having resigned and left the state, the whole burthen of sustaining the credit of the Society has been devolved upon their successors, who, individually, have no more responsibility in respect to it than any other friends of the cause, in any other part of the State, but who, for the cause's sake are willing to do all they can to remove it.

The debt was created originally, as is well known, by the great efforts to sustain the cause in 1839-40, when the devotion of a large portion of our supporters to their respective political parties deprived us of resources which were promised and confidently calculated upon.

The Executive Committee then in existence, had no alternative but to continue their operations, and trust to the generosity of Abolitionists yet to be converted, or to abandon the cause altogether, which would have been its complete overthrow throughout the free States, probably for many years.

In this exigency they resolved to continue their operations. The result was the establishment of the Liberty Party, now so strong and hopeful. But another result was the creation of the present debt. Let the good be balanced against the evil and the wisdom of their determination will be obvious.

But whether their determination was wise or not, the present committee are not responsible for it. They are only responsible for the debt, with the pledged faith of the Society as their security. The Committee have now resolved upon decisive efforts to liquidate the debt. They have, therefore, authorized the Treasurer to make this appeal to the Abolitionists of Massachusetts, and to enforce it by personal application until the amount is raised.

It is determined to pay off the debt at the earliest possible day, even if it should be necessary to restrict the operations of the Society, so that the whole contributions shall be devoted to the purpose.

The Committee have no fears that the Abolitionists of Massachusetts will for a moment countenance the disgraceful principle of "repudiation," or throw a just debt, assumed by their direction and in obedience to the stern demands of fidelity to the slave, upon their officers.

They therefore appeal to you to contribute according to your means, to the liquidation of the remaining debt, and to enable the Society to proceed in its legitimate duty of awakening the people of our State and nation to the guilt of slavery, and the duty of immediate emancipation. This great and incumbent duty your Committee pledge themselves to fulfil, so far as sustained by their constituents.

[] Contributions (as well as pledges to be paid at some future time,) may be forwarded to the Treasurer, at Salem, or to the Secretary, No. 6 Tremont Temple, Boston.

*By order and in behalf of the Committee,*

A. A. PHELPS, Chairman.

E. G. LEACH, Secretary,

DANIEL MANN, TREASURER.

*L* **DOLLAR PLAN.** In order to place the credit and future resources of the Society in a reliable condition, so as to justify the Executive Committee in proceeding with that energy which the cause demands, without the necessity of incurring debt, or soliciting contributions for general purposes hereafter, it is proposed to receive pledges in addition to present donations, of One Dollar annually for 3 years. As every industrious person is able to pay a dollar a year in this way, and as we have at least 20,000 industrious Abolitionists in Massachusetts, (male and female,) we are confident the plan must succeed. Our friends are therefore invited to sign the following Pledge and return it to the Treasurer, by whom it will be entered upon the books of the Society and acknowledged with other donations in the Emancipator.

### PLEDGE.

We the subscribers, severally agree to give to the Massachusetts Abolition Society, ONE DOLLAR, annually, for three years ensuing, to be paid on the last week of May of each year, to the order of the Treasurer.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
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# ADDRESS

## TO THE ABOLITIONISTS OF MASSACHUSETTS.

[In order to present upon this sheet the whole field of action embraced by the Mass. Abo. Soc. the following address of the Executive committee for the present year is copied from the *Emancipator*.]

Fellow labourers.—The undersigned, in entering on their duties as the executive committee of the Massachusetts Abolition Society, for the current year, ask your attention to the following statements:

It has ever been the aim of this society to carry forward the anti-slavery cause, uninumbered by foreign questions, and unanswered by mistaken friendship or open opposition, to other ends. [Of consequence it has always had just that kind of anti-slavery work to do, which most needed, from time to time, to be done, but which only an honest and fearless fidelity to the slave would do.

Its first work, that indeed which called it into being, was to assist attempts which were made to enumber the cause with questions foreign to that of the immediate emancipation of the enslaved, and so to make the cause itself subservient to other ends—ends alike mischievous to the enslaved and to the fundamental institutions and interests of all well-ordered societies. It was a painful, a laborious, and an expensive work; but it is only necessary to mark the spirit and the lengths to which the authors of those attempts have now come, to be assured that it was worth all and more than all it ever cost.

The society had scarcely effected this work, and begun to relieve itself of the debt incurred in its prosecution, when, in the providence of God, another and severer labor was thrown upon it—that of maintaining and enforcing, by its paper and agents, in the face of mighty opposition, the political integrity of the cause. We refer to the period of 1840, when the united influence of pro-slavery politicians and non-government abolitionists threatened to swallow up the entire political existence of the friends of the enslaved. The society's treasury was exhausted and overdrawn.] In a meeting of the executive committee held for the purpose of deciding what course the society by its paper and agents should pursue, we were told, in distinct terms, by an individual standing high in one of the great political parties, and speaking evidently not for himself alone, that if we dared to call that party's candidates in question and to maintain, in respect to them an unbending and independent position, we should be broken down. The hostility of the other party to a similar course respecting its candidates was equally great, and made known in methods equally significant. Those only that experienced the influences which then set in upon the society to warp its integrity, can form any just estimate of their strength. The committee had but one alternative—to bend before the storm, or honestly to face it, with the risk of utter destruction, but with the certainty, in any event, of increased pecuniary embarrassment. For the slave's sake and in God's fear they made the venture. The result then was the loss, almost as in a day, of more than a thousand subscribers to the society's paper, the desertion of many of the original friends and supporters of the society, a corresponding diminution in the amount of contributions, and an equal increase of the society's debt. But the society did not die. It outlived the storm, and made no sacrifice of its integrity. And the result now is the continued existence of the *Emancipator* and *Chronicle*, with its 6,500 subscribers: the present position and influence of the Liberty party in Massachusetts; and through the co-operation of kindred spirits by kindred sacrifices in other States, the political salvation of the anti-slavery cause. Where had the 10,000 Liberty voters of Massachusetts now been but for the stand taken in 1840, and since maintained by the Massachusetts Abolition Society? What one of those voters will not then cheerfully continue to sustain it and do whatever is necessary to relieve it of all its former liabilities?

It is now 1841: during the last four years the successive executive committees of your society have been occupied in maintaining and establishing the movement begun in 1840, and in doing what they could to diminish the pecuniary liabilities originated and mainly incurred in the two services named. But the anti-slavery cause has now reached a point at which, as your present committee think, some change should be made in the direction and nature of our work.

The separation of the cause from those foreign and extravaganzing things which called the society into existence is now substantially complete; and those things have grown to such revolting maturity as to be their own antidote. The Liberty party, which has hitherto needed and received much of the attention and aid of the society's paper and agents, is now fairly in the field, with a distinct and independent organization of its own, and able to command for itself all the resources necessary for its support and advancement. In these circumstances, some have thought that there is little further need of the society's services, and that it might be well for the society to retire from the field. Are they right? Your committee think they are not. We believe the society has yet important work to do for the slave. ]

The Liberty party, it should be remembered, will labor only with reference to its own appropriate ends. Of course its agents will occupy the field, not regularly and permanently, but only at intervals, and with immediate reference to pending or approaching elections. What agencies shall fill up the intermediate periods and carry forward the promotion of the general cause, if this society retires from the field? We know of none; and we therefore think, that as a steady and permanent agency for the promotion of the anti-slavery cause generally, this society should by all means continue its work.

Besides this, we believe, that, in the providence of God, the society is now called to give particular and earnest attention to another department of labor in the common cause, viz., its promotion in its moral and religious relations—in the churches, the ecclesiastical bodies and benevolent societies. It surely is not necessary to inform you that a great work needs to be done in this direction. Much, it is true, has been accomplished already, but much remains to be done. From the causes already adverted to, this society has not hitherto given so much attention to this part of its work as it would otherwise have gladly done, and as its importance has really demanded. We are now in a position to give it more attention; and the present posture of affairs in all the religious circles and associations of society is full of encouragement for the future. ] Your committee believe that agents of this society, duly accredited and qualified, would be freely allowed to present the cause of the slave in its moral and religious aspects and obligations, in a vast majority of all the churches, of all denominations, in this commonwealth; and we are confident, that the change of opinion and of practice that would thereby be wrought on the subject, would be great and invaluable.

To this work, to the steady promotion of the general cause and to the liquidation of the remaining debt of the society, we propose as your committee, to give our attention for the present year. We shall devote to those objects such agencies of the press and of the living voice as we can command, and as shall seem to us to be wise and effective. To do what we desire and deem important, your committee will need to receive not less than \$4000. Let the friends of this society and of the slave in the several towns raise and remit such sums as they can, at the earliest day practicable, to Dr. Daniel Mann, Salem, the treasurer of the society, or to Dr. Elbridge G. Leach, assistant treasurer, No. 6, Tremont Temple, Boston; and at the end of the year, we hope to present a statement of labors and results that will neither disappoint their expectations nor our own. To all such we say, give us a remembrance in your sympathies, your prayers, your pecuniary support, and, God helping us, we will administer your trusts as faithful stewards of the slave.

A. A. PHELPS, CHAIRMAN.

D. S. KING, Boston.  
M. S. SCUDER, do.  
A. R. CAMPBELL, do.  
JAMES CARPENTER, do.  
DANIEL MANN, Salem.  
M. M. FISHER, Medway.  
MARTIN TORREY, Foxboro'.  
CHARLES FOSTER, Charlestown.  
JOHN DALLINGER, Jr., Cambridgeport.

Executive Committee.

Boston, July 1, 1841.

Amherst Mass Abolition Soc  
July 1 1824